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HON. EDWARD S. TOBEY.

Hon. Edward S. Tobey died Sunday, March 29, at 11 p. m., at his home on Harris street, Brookline, Mass., after an illness of less than a week. Pneumonia was the cause of death.

Mr. Tobey was born at Kingston, Mass., April 5, 1813. He was a son of Silas Tobey of Berkley, and grandson of Hon. Samuel Tobey, also of Berkley, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Taunton. Mr. Tobey began his education in the school on Mason street, Boston, and finished it in the High School at Duxbury. He had originally intended to enter Harvard College, but ill-health forced him to change his plans. In 1830, on his return from a voyage to Spain, he re-entered the counting room of his stepfather, who was the senior partner of the old established firm of Phineas & Seth Sprague, extensively engaged in foreign and domestic commerce as shipowners. There he continued until 1860, having been taken into the firm in 1833. In 1838 he was chosen Director in the United States Insurance Company of Boston. In 1839 he was chosen Director of the Commercial Bank, and was a Director in the Union Bank in Boston from 1842 to 1866. He was also a member of the Board of Managers of the Suffolk Savings Bank. He was one of the founders of the Boston Board of Trade, and was Vice-President of the Board in 1859, and President in '61, '62 and '63. In 1861 he became a Director in the Union Steamship Company, and Chairman of its Building Committee for the construction of two iron steamships of 2000 tons each. They were built by Harrison Loring of South Boston, and were named the Mississippi and the Merrimac. They were to run between Boston and New Orleans, but were prevented from so doing by the outbreak of the war.

He was also a Director in the Boston and Southern Steamship Company and Chairman of its building committee for the construction of two iron steamships, the South Carolina and the Massachusetts, which were also built by Harrison Loring and sold to the United States Government. During the war Mr. Tobey was appointed by Gov. Andrew a member of the committee on Harbor Defences. As President of the Board of Trade, he received a confidential telegram from Secretary of War Stanton requesting the appointment of three persons to confer with others from New York, Philadelphia and Washington to devise the most effectual method of destroying the rebel ram Merrimac. The Boston delegation consisted of Mr. Tobey, ex-Mayor Lincoln and Mr. J. C. Converse. In 1861 he was one of three delegates, appointed in behalf of the Board of Trade, to meet delegates from the Boston, New York and Philadelphia banks, Chamber of Commerce of New York and Board of Trade of Philadelphia, in Washington, to confer with Secretary Chase and Congress as to the financial policy to be adopted by the Government. In 1861 Mr. Tobey became President of the Boston Young Men's Christian Association. As Chairman of its Army Committee he was actively engaged in co-operation with the United States Christian Commission. Through the agency of this committee supplies in aid of sick and wounded soldiers were distributed to the value of \$1,000,000. Soon after the close of the war he became one of the 100 corporators of national asylums for soldiers located at Hampton, Va., Dayton, O., and Togus Springs, Augusta, Me.

In 1866 Mr. Tobey was elected to the Massachusetts

Senate. In 1875 he was appointed Postmaster of Boston by President Grant. He was re-appointed by President Hayes, and again by President Arthur. He brought to the duties of his office a long business experience, and fully believed that they should be administered on business principles. The increase in the volume of business during his administration is measurably indicated by the increase of gross receipts in money from \$940,000 to \$1,550,000.

Mr. Tobey was the first President of the Fall River Steamboat Company. He was the Treasurer of the Russell Mills, Plymouth, Mass., a successful duck manufacturing company and had continued in that office from 1854 till his decease. He held official relations to many educational, religious and philanthropic institutions, among which were the Congregational Association, which owns a building and library; he was its President eleven years and gave it over \$6,000; American Missionary Association, President seven years; Boston City Missionary Society, President seven years; American Peace Society, President fifteen years; Discharged Soldiers' Home, Pilgrims' Society, Dartmouth College, Bradford Academy, Historic Genealogical Society and Webster Historical Society. In 1871, as President of the Pilgrims' Society, he was concerned in deciding upon the memorial to the Pilgrims' observance of their first Sabbath in America, which was spent on Clark's Island, Duxbury. In 1861, when the founding of the present Institute of Technology was under consideration by the Legislature, Mr. Tobey was one with others to address the Legislative Committee in its behalf, and it was at his suggestion that Dr. William J. Walker became interested in the projected institute, and gave for its establishment a large sum. Mr. Tobey held official relations to the institute for several years.

Mr. Tobey was a member of Mt. Vernon Church, Boston, from the first year of its foundation, 1842, under the pastorate of Rev. Dr. Kirk. He was treasurer of the society for 18 years, and for several years Chairman of the Prudential Committee. In April, 1883, he moved to Brookline and entered into church relations with the Harvard Church, of which Dr. Reuben Thomas is pastor, in which his funeral took place, April 2, 1890. Mr. Tobey leaves a widow, three sons and four daughters; Elizabeth, one of the latter, is widely known as President of the Massachusetts Woman's Temperance Union, now successfully devoted to the work of a public Bible Reader and Evangelist.

THE INCONCEIVABLE.

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

I wonder if ever a song was sung
But the singer's heart sang sweeter!
I wonder if ever a rhyme was rung
But the thought surpassed the metre!
I wonder if ever a sculptor wrought
Till the cold stone echoed his ardent thought!
Or if ever a painter, with light and shade,
The dream of his inmost heart portrayed!
I wonder if ever a rose was found,
And there might not be a fairer!
Or if ever a glittering gem was ground,
And we dreamed not of a rarer!
Ah! never on earth shall we find the best,
But it waits for us in the land of rest;
And a perfect thing we shall never behold
Till we pass the portal of shining gold.

—James Clarence Harvey.